

Wildland Fire responding to Takhini Bridge fire

July 9, 2023 - 1 am

This bulletin is out-of-date. For the latest update on the Takhini Bridge fire visit yukon.ca/en/emergencies-and-safety/wildfires/read-wildfire-bulletins.

This is an evening update on the Takhini Bridge fire (XY-019). An additional update will be provided tomorrow morning, but fire behaviour is unlikely to change overnight.

XY-019 was originally reported at 5 p.m. on July 8, located around 2 kilometres south of the Takhini River bridge along the Alaska Highway. A helicopter, two airtankers, the Yukon Fire Marshall SHOT (Special Heavy Operations Team) group and crews from Wildland Fire Management and the Hootalinqua and Ibex Valley Volunteer Fire Departments were dispatched to respond.

Retardant was dropped with the goal of limiting growth towards the highway and homes. An airtanker from Alaska provided additional help. Multiple helicopters supported ground crews with bucketing.

Firefighters alerted nearby residents closest to the fire by going door-to-door. Structure protection, such as sprinklers, has been set up on many nearby residences as a precaution.

As of 1 a.m. on July 9, the fire has grown to approximately 73 hectares. It was highly visible and produced smoke impacting the Ibex Valley and Whitehorse. Fortunately, winds were favourable did not push the fire directly towards the Alaska Highway and residences.

Overnight, heavy machinery will be building dozer guard on the north and east parts of the fire. Suppression efforts will continue throughout the day tomorrow. An [evacuation alert has also been issued](#) by the Emergency Measures Organization as a precaution. The fire is still not expected to immediately threaten homes or the Alaska Highway.

Fire behaviour will slow down overnight. An update will be provided tomorrow before 12 p.m.

Wildland Fire is asking members of the public to allow crews to work effectively and avoid stopping on the highway adjacent to the fire. Vehicles parked on the road are a risk to public safety and can impede firefighting operations.

Visit wildfires.service.yukon.ca to see the locations, size and control status of all Yukon wildfires.

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